SHEOS FOR ORPHAN SOULS: An envelope was attached to the Happy Bucks bucket again this week. The campaign is drawing to a close. The shoes will need to be delivered to the District Conference in St. Joseph on April 24th-25th (Ray will be a featured speaker at the Conference).

CHICKEN Q: Committee Chair Scott Veatch put sign up sheets on the tables and passed the box around with member tickets. If you need additional tickets, please contact Scott. Scott announced that the board decided last night to donate half of Chicken Q profits to the “I think I Can” program. The program was recently started by a group of local primary school teachers to provide clothing, school supplies, and hygiene items for needy children. The remaining funds will benefit Rotary Park.

PRESIDENT RANDY announced that funds remaining from this year’s budget will allow us to donate an additional $1,000 for the dictionary project (we donated $2,500 last fall) and $1,000 to the Gates Challenge (check Rotary International website for details).

NEW MEMBER INDUCTED AT APRIL 1ST MEETING

Betty McLane-Iles, a Truman State University French professor, was inducted by President Randy Rogers. She is pictured in left photo with her sponsor, James Harmon.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT ENGINEER DAN NIEC

Mr. Niec reported that our scheduled speaker, Pete Rahn, could not be with us today since he is suffering with the flu. Mr. Niec, however, in Mr. Rahn’s absence, provided us a very informative report on his department’s plans for the future, including the utilization of federal stimulus funds for improvements to major and minor roads and bridge projects. He said that 50 per cent of stimulus funds must be obligated by June 30. We were excited to hear that, in less than a month, MoDOT will begin accepting bids for the Alternate Highway 63 project, and he expected construction to be completed by the end of 2011. He said that all the proposed projects will need to move quickly, since it is anticipated that very little money will be available for highway improvements from 2011 through 2013.

Mr. Niec entertained questions at the conclusion of his talk. (He is pictured above with Rotarian and Hwy. 63 Transportation Corp. Chair Harriet Beard.) Copies of an interesting booklet entitled “A Conversation for Moving Missouri Forward” were provided.

Announcements:
Mark Hager proposed as member (1st announcement). Jon Broce has resigned.

Upcoming Programs:
April 15: Darrell Krueger/TSU
April 22: Exch. Student w/ host families
April 29: Jeff Romine/Rotary Foundation
May 6: John Malloy/John’s Precision Cycles